

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 3 as follows:

-- The cloning manager 101 compiles a list 115 of the in-place files and directories (in-place file system objects 103) that require preserving. Typically, the list 115 of in-place file system objects 103 that require preserving is provided to the cloning manager as a directive concerning the clone operation to perform (e.g., as input 109 from a user such as a systems administrator, in a configuration file, etc.). The cloning manager 101 analyzes the file system objects 103 to preserve, and can eliminate any objects 103 from the list 115 that will not be affected by the clone operation. An in-place file system object 103 will not be affected by the clone operation where the object ~~103~~ 103E is stored on a physical medium ~~111~~ 111B other than the target physical medium ~~111~~ 111A for the clone operation. Additionally, ~~an~~ in-place file system ~~objects 103~~ ~~object 103A~~ stored on the target physical medium ~~111~~ 111A but outside of the boundaries 105 of the resultant file system 107 will not be affected. This can be determined by cross-referencing the in-place object's 103 content locations against the prescribed boundaries 105 of the resultant file system 107. --

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure on page 51, line 4 as follows:

-- A cloning manager preserves in-place file system objects (103) during a clone operation. The cloning manager (101) determines boundaries (105) ~~of a~~ on a target storage medium to contain a resultant file system (107) to be created by the clone operation, and identifies at least one protected area (113) ~~within the boundaries (105), reserved for the file system (107) to be overwritten by the clone operation~~. The cloning manager (101) also identifies at least one in-place file system object (103) ~~at least partially~~ within or overlapping the boundaries (105) ~~not to be preserved-overwritten~~ during the clone operation. The cloning manager (101) ensures that each in-place file system object (103) to be preserved is not located in a protected area (113), shifting (203) the objects (103) as necessary. The cloning manager (101) ~~creates the file system (107) during~~ performs the clone operation, creating the resultant file system only in locations that do not contain objects (103) to be preserved ~~within the boundaries in which no in-place file system object is located~~. --